A SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSED Ph.D. THESIS

In English

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For

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BY

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1. **Title:**Black Feminism,Female phases and Social Justice in the Work of Bell Hooks
2. **Introduction:** The proposed research is a humble attempt to investigate into the space, freedom, rights and social Justice provided to womenin Bell Hooks's works. Bell Hook was a Radical feminist, with her work, had pushed the idea of feminism beyond the realms of middle-class, white families.Gloria Jean Watkins, her real name and bell hooks is her pen name, she chose this name, and styled it in lower-case, in an effort to focus attention on the substantive ideas within her writing, rather than her identity as an isolated individual. To situate those ideas, bell hooks drew on academic scholarship and popular culture as well as her relevant personal perspectives, especially as a Black woman living in America, as an educator and activistand as the first in her family to gain a university education. Her work mostly spoke about the struggles of Black working-class women that hardly found their place in the upper-class feminist movement. She emphasized that every great movement for social justice has been grounded in love as a transformative force. According to her, 'Feminism', to focus on the fact that to be 'feminist' in any authentic sense of the term is to want for all people, female and male, liberation from sexist role patterns, domination, and oppression.Hooks was always vocal about the representation of the Black culture in music, films and the field of art. She also held strong views on rap music and its roots, which majorly stems from the control exerted on Black people inside their homes and on the streets.Hooks views on patriarchy and masculinity were also deemed controversial. However, with her ferocious commitments and beliefs, she had once said, "I want my work to be about healing".So supposedly her writings are associated with tons of social critique. In fact, if women cannot express themselves freely, boldly, and loudly, they do not encounter any conflict as they do not frighten any

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social or political establishment nor do they cross the boundaries of self-expression. The establishment gets unnerved when they start speaking the truth and may demand a change too not only in their status but also in the social perception about women.

Starting in 1981 with her book "Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism," Ms. hooks, who insisted on using all lowercase letters in her name, argued that feminism's claim to speak for all women had pushed the unique experiences of working-class and Black women to the According to Bell Hooks, 'Womanhood' could not be reduced to a singular experience, but had to be considered within a framework encompassing race and class. She called for a new form of feminism, one that recognized differences and inequalities among women as a way of creating a new.

Hooks's appeal was the sheer diversity of her interests. Her work, across some 40 books, encompassed literary criticism, children's fiction, self-help, memoir and poetry, and it tackled not just subjects like education, capitalism and American history but also love and friendship.She published numerous scholarly articles, appeared in documentary films, and participated in public lecture. Her work addressed love, race, class, gender, art, history, sexuality, mass, media and feminism.

3. **LiteratureReview:**

Bell hooks, whose incisive, wide-ranging writing on gender and race helped push feminism beyond its white, middle-class worldview to include the voices of Black and working-class women. The enormous impact Ms. hooks had on both feminism and Black women, many of whom had resisted aligning with a movement they felt was designed to diminish their experiences.Hook's analysis of sexism, and the ways

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in which the institutions of slavery and white supremacy reinforced gender norms have brought prestige to the world.

Lots of authors, thinkers, critics, sociologists,activist and feminist were referred to for criticaldiscussion, cutting-edge examination, clear illustration and also for having a sound theoretical framework for the research. Some of them areJane Blocker(2012), Hua Hsu(2021), Clay Risen (2021), Nana Darkoa (2022), Reni Eddo-Lodge(2013), David Olusoga(2000), Candice Carty-Williams, and Margaret Atwood.

4. **Research Question and Hypothesis:**

This research is mainly based on the following hypotheses:

- Though the study of identity has long been controversial, concerns about modernity have led to a rise in interest in recent decades. There is a sense of fragmentation and uncertainty as a result of developments like globalization, the demise of the welfare state, increased social mobility, more flexibility in the workplace, and instability in personal relationships. Traditional resources for identity formation are no longer as clear-cut or readily available (Buckingham, 2008, p. 1).
- Secondly, identity is unstable since people encounter new circumstances every day. Additionally, the author uses past, present, and future temporal periods, which alters how identity is established.
- The internet itself plays a major role in the development of identity. Stern (2008) highlights the fact that young boys and girls now vent their frustrations online. It strengthens bonds between people and gives them more power. Social media platforms like Facebook can provide an appropriate forum for talking about identity issues, particularly with underrepresented groups. Additionally, blogs offer a platform for writing texts—both fiction

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and non-fiction—about identity and other topics. Another excellent venue for these discussions with videos and comment sections is YouTube.

- Black women suffer not only from racism but also sexism. Racism has been an issue for centuries now and, although some situations have changed because of the Civil Rights Era, it is still deeply ingrained in society.
- The transformation of women's role in society will be liberating not only for the group, but also for men and children. Black women are displaced or migrated through choice. They leave their prevailing situations and move to new situations for special reasons – for liberation or opportunity. Thus, they begin new relationship in each new circumstance. They negotiate and renegotiate their identities in terms of available subject situations.
- Modern racism was built on centuries of oppression and discrimination against Black people; it is an institutionalized matter. Now these deeds are masked by ornamental discourses of White socialites. In fact, their negative images are so deeply ingrained in society that the perpetuation can be involuntary. Discrimination can be self-consciously motivated, or it can be halfconsciously or unconscious and deeply imbedded.

5. **Objectives:**

This research will, tentatively, try to answer the following questions:

a. Black feminism talks about women's spaces and rights, specially struggles face by black women due to race, class. It is interesting bell hooks and also cry for more and more space and want their rights to be restored so that they may also live a life of dignity and grace.

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b. Further, as Black Feminism is associated with granting new spaces, it is sensible to explore if these new spaces brought safety and support in the lives of women.

c. Next, a feminist literature is normally synonymous with a 'search for self identity.' Going by this impression is it crucial to find out the attitudinal changes characteristic of that search in bell hooks?

d. How does the transformation of women affect the family and society?

e. How do Black Women negotiate and renegotiate their identities?

f. Why and how do the oppression and discrimination continue against the Black?

g. Why do these black women suffer not only from racism but also from sexism?

6. **Methodology:**

The methodology adopted in the present research work, aims to be descriptive, analytical and critical drawing extensively on the text books mentioned under the heading of source of data/ data collection. To begin with, it would be in the nature of a critical analysis of the text of Bell Hooks. It may also adopt the comparative method putting side by side the works of some other creative writers who deal with the elements of black feminism and social justice.

7. **Research Coverage / Sampling:**

The proposed research work would analyse, examine, explore, investigate and evaluate the black feminism, female phases and social justice in the works of bell hooks like***Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminisme Story*****(1981),** ***All About Love: New Vision*****(1999)**and ***Writing Beyond Race: Living Theory and Practice(2012).*** A very brief summary of these works is given below:

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Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminisme Story: This work examining the impact of sexism on black women during slavery, the devaluation of black womanhood, black male sexism, racism among feminists, and the black woman's involvement with feminism, hooks attempts to move us beyond racist and sexist assumptions. The result is nothing short of groundbreaking, giving this book a critical place on every feminist scholar's bookshelf.

All About Love: New Vision: This work offers radical new ways to think about love by showing its interconnectedness in our private and public lives. In eleven concise chapters, hooks explains how our everyday notions of what it means to give and receive love often fail us, and how these ideals are established in early childhood. She offers a rethinking of self-love (without narcissism) that will bring peace and compassion to our personal and professional lives, and asserts the place of love to end struggles between individuals, in communities, and among societies. Moving from the cultural to the intimate, hooks notes the ties between love and loss and challenges the prevailing notion that romantic love is the most important love of all. Visionary and original, hooks shows how love heals the wounds we bear as individuals and as a nation, for it is the cornerstone of compassion and forgiveness and holds the power to overcome shame.

Writing Beyond Race: Living Theory and Practice: bell hooks approaches the topic of race from the perspective of a person who is experiencing the idea in real time in their daily lives. Bell Hooks regularly transposes her own experience in her writing to make points more relatable for the reader because she is a woman and an African American. Hooks gathers numerous pieces on the subject of race and how dominance of one person over another ought to be dealt with in Writing for Race. This book presents alternative viewpoints from what is

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supposedly the "post-racial" era that we currently live in, challenging our traditional, historical approach to the problem.

8. **Data Collection:** As stated earlier too, the source of primary data will come from one collection of bell hooks's short feminist book (***Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminisme Story***),onenon fiction (***All About Love: New Visions***) And a collection of essay(***Writing Beyond Race: Living Theory and Practice).***The secondary data will come from books with somewhat different orientations or leanings on Feminism/ Feminist Theory.

9. **Contribution to the field:**

   The research will contribute immensely in the field of knowledge as it aims to propagate the philosophy of co-existence, equality, peace and harmony in the society and naturally the society will develop, and bloom fully and harmoniously.

10. **Structure of Research Work:**

    Preface

    1) **Chapter 1: Introduction**
    2) **Chapter 2: Black Feminism, problem and paradoxes for black feminist**
    3) **Chapter 3: Womanhood in Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminisme Story**
    4) **Chapter 4: Womanism in All About Love: New Visions**
    5) **Chapter 5: Cultural and racial bridge in Writing Beyond Race: Living Theory and Practice**
    6) **Chapter 6: Conclusion**

11. **Reference :**

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